BENGALURU, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com HAPPY DEEPAWALI 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 68% Partly Cloudy Sensex 79,724 | Nifty 24,304 | Gold 78,788 | Silver 95,460 | Dollar 84.06 | Euro 91.37 | GBP 108.90

Bangalore Mirror wishes you a very happy Deepawali

Our offices and press will remain closed on Saturday on account of Deepawali. So you'll miss seeing us at your doorstep on Sunday, November 3. Log on to **www.bangaloremirror.com** or follow @BangaloreMirror on Twitter for all the buzz about Bengaluru and beyond

SAY IT IN KANNADA

Traffic police launch 'Learn Kannada' initiative for non-Kannadigas on occasion of Kannada Rajyothsava

PAGE 2

CRASH COURSE

Karnataka witnesses about nine road accidents every two hours and one death due to accidents each hour

PAGE 9

BBMP claims garbage being burnt on private land near Bellahalli landfill not under its jurisdiction, leaving suffering residents of apartment complexes without any recourse

SMOKING CITIZENS OUT IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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> **Burning of garbage will become a major health hazard if no measures are taken to stop it. The Kannur Panchayat authorities and BBMP Marshals must step in to stop this**
> — Abhik Ghosh, resident of the area

The State Government is empowered to ban burning of any material that causes air pollution. However, the authorities concerned seemed to have forgotten about their responsibility if the brazen burning of garbage at Bellahalli is any indication. The residents of nearby apartment complexes have registered more than 100 complaints seeking Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities' intervention, but so far nothing has worked.

The residents of nearby apartment complexes have been sending videos of garbage burning at night to the BBMP authorities but they have done nothing to stop this act, which is in violation of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981. "I have been residing here for more than five years. I notice the burning of garbage on a regular basis. Burning of garbage not only pollutes air

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

Show your cards

14 lakh more than required below poverty line cards in state

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The Food and Civil Supplies Department has intensified efforts to identify ineligible beneficiaries who possess BPL (Below Poverty Line) cards in the state as there is growing pressure to revise the unscientific criteria previously established for obtaining BPL cards. According to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 3,58,87,666 beneficiaries are supposed to receive benefits in the state, with a distribution of 76.04% in rural areas and 49.36% in urban areas. However, the state currently has 3,93,29,981 beneficiaries with 1,16,51,209 BPL cards, which is 14 lakh more than the specified number.

An official said, "The Food and Civil Supplies Department has already issued several deadlines for those who obtained BPL or Antyodaya cards under false pretenses or without proper eligibility to return them. The department has also warned that failure to return ineligible BPL cards within the stipulated time would result in criminal cases being filed. Consequently, many have returned their BPL or Antyodaya cards to avoid legal consequences."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Experimental play

Join in for an evening of laughter, introspection, and unique storytelling as Yuvaka Sangha's theatrical wing, 'Free Space,' presents its first experimental play, "Ayomaya—Jan Ki Ram Story." Presented through three distinct dimensions, Ayomaya combines humour and gravity, marking it as both an artistic experiment and a novel theatrical experience. This play promises to resonate with everyone who has felt the tug of unfulfilled aspirations or battled with inner doubts in their life journey. **Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra, Bengaluru; When: November 2, 7 pm**

02 Yakshagana performance

Watch 'Chakravyuha,' a Yakshagana Prasanga by Pavanje Yakshagana Mandali, as part of the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival 2024. This is a war between Pandavas and Kauravas. Dronacharya offers to create an impenetrable labyrinth to assuage the Kauravas, who are desperate with consistent losses. Samasaptaka, a friend of Kauravas, organises a battle in the netherworlds. Abhimanyu seeks the permission of Dharmaraya to enter the labyrinth Chakravyuha. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar When: November 3, 7:30 pm**

03 Kathak tribute

Riddham Kathak School, Bengaluru, presents the second edition of "Adhiyat," a memorial tribute to the legendary Kathak exponent, Late Guru Dr Rohini Bhate. Join in for an enriching evening of Kathak, featuring an audio-visual display on Guru Rohini's life and work, along with performances of her choreographic works by Sampada Pillai and her disciples. The event will also showcase solo recitals by renowned Kathak exponents from different gharanas, including Akshatha M (Bengaluru), Sunil Sunkara (Mumbai), and Nandini K Mehta (Bengaluru). **Where: Seva Sadan, Malleshwaram; When: November 6, 6 pm onwards**

Day of love, unity & pride

Citizens participate in a spirited march past and various cultural programmes in Kanteerava Stadium, showcasing their enthusiasm and pride for the state on the occasion of Karnataka Rajyotsava on Friday
You can see more images on our Instagram page by scanning this QR code

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

'Learn Kannada' with 5,000 autorickshaws in Bengaluru

Bengaluru traffic police launch 'Learn Kannada' initiative on occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava, plan to distribute placards to 50K autos by month end

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The Bengaluru City Police (BCP) Traffic Department in collaboration with 'Auto Kannadiga' introduced the "Learn Kannada" initiative aimed at helping non-Kannadigas communicate more effectively in Kannada commemorating Karnataka Rajyotsava on Friday.

This initiative seeks to bridge language gaps that have occasionally led to misunderstandings between autorickshaw drivers and passengers in the city. The campaign places boards featuring basic Kannada phrases, along with their English translations, behind the driver's seat in auto rickshaws, allowing passengers to learn and interact with drivers in Kannada, thereby encouraging an inclusive environment and enhancing the overall travel experience.

"Today, 5,000 autos across the city received these boards with common words and phrases for communication with drivers. By the end of the month, we aim to reach 50,000 autos with this initiative," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (Traffic East) Kuldeep Kumar Jain. He said that it would help both passengers and auto-drivers communicate and non-Kannada speakers to learn.

Positive response

Many auto drivers are showing support for the idea, recognising it as a step toward making non-Kannadigas feel more comfortable while navigating the city, Jain said. "Learning a few words in Kannada helps passengers feel more comfortable, and it's a great way to build a friendly connection. Now, with these boards, it's easier for everyone to understand each other," said Ramesh, an autorickshaw driver.

The campaign takes inspiration from the efforts of Ajmal Sultan, an autorickshaw driver, also known as "Auto Kannadiga," who previously launched his own Kannada-teaching initiative. Sultan's approach aimed to ease language-related issues between drivers and passengers, setting a positive example for the city.

As the initiative gains momentum, the BCP Traffic Department is hoping that it will serve as an inviting introduction to Kannada for many, creating a friendly atmosphere and helping passengers familiarise themselves with the language, with more people learning the language.

Traffic Police official from KR Puram pasting the 'Learn Kannada' board in an autorickshaw on Friday

Bengalureans celebrate Rajyotsava with 10K Footpath Run

Bengaluru witnessed an exhilarating celebration of Karnataka Rajyotsava Day as over 75 participants took part in the BLR Footpath 10K Run, showcasing the city's spirit and community engagement. With an impressive 60 finishers completing the 11 km course, the footpaths were rated an overall 4 out of 5, reflecting the excellent condition of the city's pathways.
Participants came from various parts of the city—Whitefield, HSE, South Bengaluru, and Malleshwaram—donning vibrant red and yellow attire to celebrate the day in style. As they navigated an average of five to six obstacles along the route, the camaraderie and festive atmosphere underscored the community's commitment to health and wellness, making the run a memorable occasion for all involved.
Among the participants were Sema, a spirited 70-year-old lady from Tripura; Veeksha, a talented 10-year-old national-level skater who not only skated her way through the course but also led the group with infectious enthusiasm; Randeep D, Secretary of Youth Affairs and Sports; and local MLA Rizwan Arshad running the first few kilometres before having to attend an official state function. The event was officially flagged off by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Zonal Commissioner for East Zone, Snehal R, who was joined by several senior BBMP officers and engineers.
"The footpath in Shivajinagar stands as a testament to our hard work with the BBMP, and I want to thank everyone who has come out to support this initiative. Choosing to run on footpaths is a unique concept that isn't common anywhere else in the world," said MLA Arshad. — Sanjana CS

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FCB INTERFACE/6878/NOV2024/ENG

Cauvery stage six on tap as BWSSB expands supply

Bengaluru will get extra 500 MLD of water, raising its total availability to 35 TMC each year, with new connections expanding access across 110 villages

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As the Cauvery fifth stage work is nearing completion, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is now planning towards the Cauvery Stage 6 project. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this stage is expected to be submitted in September. A senior official said, "The current water supply in Bengaluru stands at 1,450 million litres per day (MLD), which amounts to roughly 19 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) annually. Under the existing Cauvery Stage 5 project, the daily supply is 775 MLD, servicing 110 villages and translating to about 10 TMC each year. The forthcoming Stage 6 project is designed to provide an additional 500 MLD daily, equating to approximately 6 TMC annually. Once Stage 6 is fully operational, the total annual water supply for Bengaluru is expected to reach around 35 TMC."

Up to now, the water supply across different stages of the Cauvery project has been as follows: During Stage 1, 140 MLD was supplied to Bengaluru daily. Stage 2 also delivered 140 MLD daily. Stage 3 contributed 320 MLD daily, while Stage 4 (comprising Phases 1 and 2) offered a daily supply of 850 MLD. The current Stage 5 supplied 775 MLD daily, and the proposed Stage 6 aimed to deliver 500 MLD per day. Now, the DPR for Cauvery Stage 6 is nearing its final stages. Once completed, it will lead to discussions on land acquisition, project cost estimates, and financing arrangements. The required water will be sourced from the Cauvery River at Shivanasamudra and delivered to Thorekadanahalli (TK Halli) for treatment. From there, it will be supplied via a pumping station through the Ring Road and NICE Road.

State is advancing Stage 6 to provide Bengaluru and nearby towns with 6 TMC more Cauvery water for drinking

The tender process for the DPR preparation was initiated following state government orders. A committee of five members, led by the Chief Engineer, was formed for this task. A tender was called on February 6, with bids to be submitted by February 21. The deadline for submitting the DPR is within six months. The current water supply in Bengaluru stands at 1,450 million litres per day (MLD), which amounts to roughly 19 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) annually. Under the existing Cauvery Stage 5 project, the daily supply is 775 MLD, servicing 110 villages and translating to about 10 TMC each year. The forthcoming Stage 6 project is designed to provide an additional 500 MLD daily, equating to approximately 6 TMC annually. Once Stage 6 is fully operational, the total annual water supply for Bengaluru is expected to reach around 35 TMC.

> **"Goal is to initially provide 135 to 140 million litres across 110 villages. From Sept, target it is to add 20,000 new water connections** – Official

A senior BWSSB official stated, "The Supreme Court had ordered an additional 6 TMC of Cauvery water to Bangalore for drinking purposes. In response, the state government is moving forward with the Stage 6 project to supply water to Bangalore city and surrounding towns. The project aims to provide the maximum amount of water from the 500 MLD intended for the towns, delivered via pipelines to central locations. Local bodies will then manage the distribution for civic needs." The project will supply water to areas such as Shivarama Karanth Layout, Nadoja Kempegowda Layout, and surrounding regions including Devanahalli, Hosakote, Anekal, Bidadi, and Nelamangala. Tata Consultancy has been contracted to prepare the DPR, with a report expected by September 15. The report will then be submitted to the state government for approval, according to a BWSSB official.

"Under Stage 5 of the Cauvery project, water is being supplied only to these 110 villages. The BWSSB plans to deliver 775 million litres of water. Now, it is providing enough water for 55,000 connections. The goal is to initially provide 135 to 140 million litres across 110 villages, aiming to serve 400,000 connections. Starting in September, the target is to add 20,000 new water connections each month," said an official.

Rusted pole removed from KR Circle Underpass

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Pedestrians express their gratitude to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) employees for removing a dangerously hanging solar light pole at the KR Circle underpass. The rusted pole, which had been installed many years ago, posed a risk to unsuspecting pedestrians.

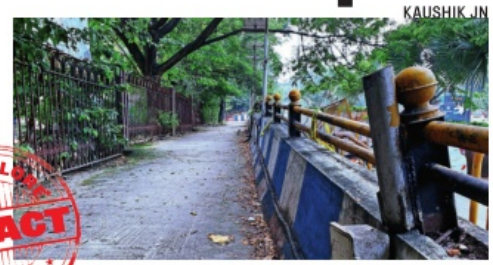
Bangalore Mirror published a story on October 28, titled, "Poles at KR Circle are precariously poised" narrating how the BBMP authorities have forgotten the existence of rusted solar light poles while installing LED lights as part of the KR Circle beautification project. Pedestrians have expressed concern over the negligence of the BBMP authorities to replace the rusted solar light poles with new ones. As of now, the BBMP Street Lights Department has been using the old solar light poles for installing LED lights to ensure lighting for the underpass as well as for the footpath at night. The BBMP employees have removed the precariously hanging solar light pole and kept it on the footpath. This is the second solar light pole removed at the underpass but the BBMP authorities have not taken measures to install new light poles with LED bulbs to ensure lighting at the underpass.

Bangalore Mirror
Poles at KR Cirice are precariously poised

BM reported on October 28 that BBMP authorities neglected to replace rusted solar light poles

"I want to thank the BBMP authorities for removing the precariously hanging solar light pole. By removing it, the BBMP employees avoided a mishap. I urge the BBMP Street Lights Department to install new poles with LED bulbs without any delay," said Nagendra Prasad, a pedestrian. Demanding the BBMP authorities to remove all the old solar light poles at the KR Circle underpass as they have become an eyesore, Sebastian J, a pedestrian, said the solar light poles were installed many years ago and need to be replaced with decorative light poles. "The BBMP spent a lot of money on the development of KR Circle a few years ago. The authorities should have removed the old solar light poles and installed decorative street light poles with LED bulbs instead of waiting for these old and rusted solar light poles to become dangerous for pedestrians," said Sebastian.

KAUSHIK JN



Emphasising the need for having a sufficient number of street lights at the KR Circle underpass, Keshava Murthy N, a pedestrian, said the installation of new LED lights will serve a double purpose, ensuring light at the underpass as well as for the footpath between the underpass and the Bescom office compound. "I appeal to the authorities to remove all the old solar light poles and install decorative light poles with LED bulbs for the benefit of pedestrians and motorists," he said.

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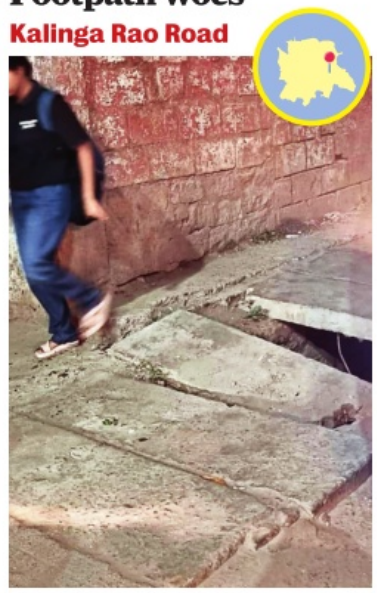
Litter crisis
Dollars Colony

The road in Dollars Colony is strewn with garbage, and no authorities are taking action to address the issue.

Footpath woes
Kalinga Rao Road



The footpaths along Kalinga Rao Road are in poor condition.

Mosquito menace
Charles Campbell Road

The vacant plot at the intersection of Charles Campbell Road and Ramakrishnappa Road has become a hotspot for garbage accumulation and mosquito breeding.

Rare orange visitor takes to flight again

Severely dehydrated Orange-Headed Thrush found on college campus gets timely treatment

A rare Orange-Headed Thrush was recently saved by the People for Animals (PfA) Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Centre from the SJBIT College campus in Bengaluru. This vibrant bird, known for its striking orange feathers and melodic call, is an uncommon sight in Bengaluru's urban areas, making the rescue particularly special.

The thrush was spotted on campus showing signs of severe dehydration. Responding quickly, PfA's rescue team secured the bird and provided it with vital treatment. Under the care of specialists at PfA's wildlife hospital, the thrush received hydration and medical attention, making a full recovery before it was released into a protected natural habitat where it can thrive away from city hazards.

The Orange-Headed Thrush (Geokichla citrina citrina) is a subspecies typically found in evergreen and moist deciduous forests. With an orange head and underparts, a white face with two black lines, and a distinctive white throat, it's easily recognised and admired for its unique appearance. These birds usually feed on insects, invertebrates, and some fruits, preferring densely wooded areas over cities. Their presence in Bengaluru is rare, as urban spaces and habitat loss challenge their survival.

This recent rescue highlights the rarity of the species in Bengaluru. "This is only the third Orange-Headed Thrush we've rescued in our 27-year history," said Colonel Dr Nawaz Shariff, Chief Wildlife Veterinarian at PfA. "Their sightings are rare here, which makes every encounter valuable for conservation efforts."

Similar sightings of the Orange-Headed Thrush were previously recorded in Rajkot, Kasaragod, and Chennai in 2021. Its infrequent presence in cities underscores the impact of urbanization on biodiversity, where birds like this are often displaced from their natural habitats.

PfA has played a crucial role in rescuing and conserving Bengaluru's wildlife over the years.

PfA team says in its 27-year history this is 3rd such bird they have rescued, showing how rarely it is seen in city

The organisation has saved an impressive 42,147 animals from 231 different species, including various mammals, birds, and reptiles. As urban areas continue to expand, efforts like these are essential in maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem and protecting species at risk of disappearing.

—Iffath Fathima

Fans gather outside hospital to greet Darshan

Actor Darshan, who was granted interim bail on medical grounds in connection with the murder case of Renuka Swamy, has been admitted to BGS Hospital in Kengeri due to severe back and leg pain.

A crowd of fans gathered outside the hospital on Friday to show their support and concern for the actor's health.

Neurosurgeon Dr Naveen, who is treating Darshan, provided an update on the actor's condition while speaking to the media and shared that the actor is experiencing discomfort in his back and leg.

"Actor Darshan is admitted to the hospital because of back pain. His leg pain has increased. Everything needs to be tested, and currently, Darshan has a lot of pain in his left leg," said Dr. Naveen.

"Back pain needs to be tested, and all reports will come within 48 hours. Darshan has decreased sensation in his left leg. Some tests, including blood tests and an MRI scan, are pending," Naveen added.

According to Dr. Naveen, Darshan will remain in the hospital for at least the next two days for further observation and treatment.

Single-judge Justice S Vishwajith Shetty on Wednesday approved Darshan's interim bail application to facilitate surgery. The High Court directed him to surrender his passport to the trial court.

—ANI

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Rise of Nelamangala: Why real estate investors should buy property now

Nelamangala, a rapidly growing town located on the outskirts of Bengaluru, is emerging as a real estate hotspot, attracting attention from both homebuyers and investors. Nestled strategically at the junction of two key highways—the National Highway 4 (Bengaluru-Mumbai) and National Highway 75 (Bengaluru-Mangaluru)—Nelamangala is poised to become one of the most sought-after regions for real estate development.

Proximity to Bengaluru and upcoming infrastructure projects

Devika D, a property developer, said, "One of Nelamangala's key advantages is its strategic location. Situated just 25 kilometres from Bengaluru's city centre, it offers easy access to the capital without the congestion and high property prices of urban areas.

The town is connected to major hubs like Yeshwanthpur, Peenya, and Hebbal, which host several IT parks, industrial zones, and corporate offices." A game-changer for the region is the proposed second airport at Nelamangala. This infrastructure development is expected to transform the area into a bustling hub for commerce and tourism.

Affordability and high return on investment (ROI)

Compared to Bengaluru's skyrocketing real estate prices, property in Nelamangala remains relatively affordable. This affordability factor, coupled with the region's fast-paced infrastructure development, ensures a high return on investment in the coming years.

Moreover, Nelamangala's real estate market caters to various segments, offering everything from budget apartments to luxury villas.

Green spaces and natural surroundings

In contrast to Bengaluru's densely packed urban spaces, Nelamangala boasts lush greenery and wide-open spaces. The town is surrounded by scenic landscapes, agricultural fields, and small water bodies, offering a serene and peaceful environment for residents. "With air quality becoming an increasing concern in urban centres, the clean and unpolluted environment of Nelamangala provides a welcome respite.

It's an ideal location for those looking to escape the noise and stress of city life while still staying close enough to commute for work or leisure," said Naveen Reddy, a property developer.

Industrial growth and job opportunities

The town is home to several industrial areas, including the Dabaspet Industrial Estate and the Nelamangala Industrial Area, which house numerous manufacturing and logistics companies.

This industrial growth is creating job opportunities in the region, leading to increased demand for housing from professionals working in these sectors.

"The presence of large-scale industries and warehouse facilities also opens up opportunities for commercial real estate investment. Investors looking to diversify their portfolios can consider buying land for industrial use or developing commercial properties, such as warehouses or office spaces," added Reddy.

-Prakash VL

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Kanakapura Road rises as real estate hotspot

Unlike many congested urban areas, property developers said that Kanakapura and Mysuru Roads retain their natural charm with lush greenery, open spaces, and scenic landscapes. This part of Bengaluru is close to the city's famed natural attractions like the Turahalli Forest, the Bannerghatta National Park, and the Thottikallu Falls, making it an appealing destination for nature lovers and those seeking a peaceful living environment.

Many residential projects in the area emphasise eco-friendly living, with green initiatives, landscaped gardens, and proximity to nature as key selling points.

This balance between urban convenience and natural beauty is one of the reasons why Kanakapura Road is becoming a favoured residential area for families and retirees looking for a slower-paced, yet connected, lifestyle.

Educational and healthcare facilities

Another reason Kanakapura Road is emerging as a preferred real estate destination is the presence of top-tier educational and healthcare institutions. Renowned schools like Delhi Public School, Kumarans School, and The Valley School are located along this stretch, making it a preferred choice for families with children.

In terms of healthcare, the area is well-served by reputed hospitals such as Apollo, Fortis, and BGS Global Hospital, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality medical care. The availability of these essential services within proximity adds to the area's attractiveness, making it a self-sufficient locality for families.

Investment potential and future growth

Kanakapura Road's real estate market has shown consistent growth over the years, with property prices appreciating due to the development of infrastructure and the region's increasing popularity. For investors, this area offers excellent potential for high returns on investment, as demand for housing continues to rise.

Furthermore, with upcoming projects such as the second airport at Nelamangala, improved transport links, and increased commercial development, the region is poised for sustained growth.

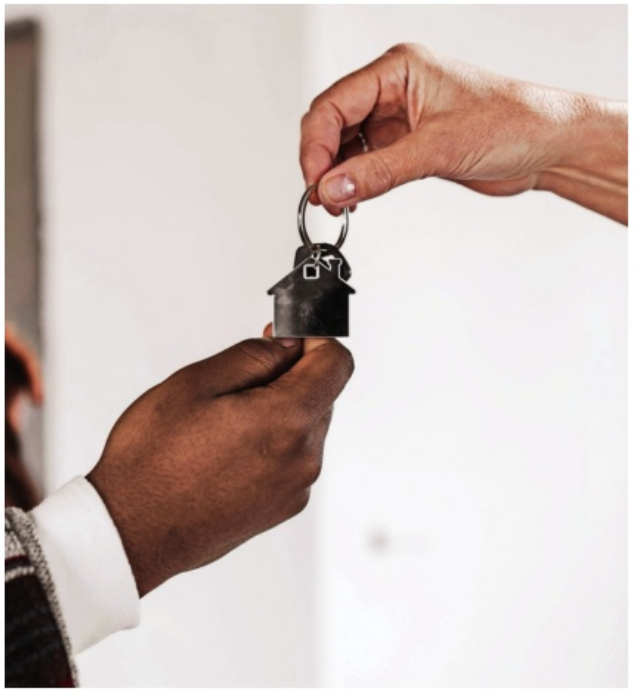
Investing in property along Kanakapura Road now offers a chance to benefit from future appreciation as Bengaluru continues to expand.

-Prakash VL

Festive offers drive record home sales

The housing market is poised for continued growth as we approach the festive season, building on strong sales performance throughout the calendar year 2023 and the January-September 2024 period. This time of year is traditionally regarded as auspicious for home purchases, and the sector is expected to see a surge in demand from first-time homebuyers.

According to the latest report from CBRE, homebuying sentiment has remained positive in 2024, with over 150,000 units sold in the first half alone—an increase compared to the same period in 2023. However, rising property prices and global uncertainties may lead potential buyers to carefully evaluate their decisions amid the current market dynamics.



The luxury housing segment, particularly properties priced between INR 2-4 crore and above, continues to attract high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) and non-resident Indians (NRIs). This demand is driven by a desire for higher returns on investments amid global economic uncertainties. Additionally, an emerging segment of upper-middle-class buyers is increasingly willing to allocate larger budgets to enhance their lifestyles, indicating sustained robust activity in this sector.

In anticipation of the festive season, developers are unveiling a range of attractive offers for prospective homebuyers, including EMI waivers, GST exemptions, and free registration and stamp duty. Added benefits, such as modular kitchens, electronics, free car parking spaces, and furnished apartments, are also being offered. To further entice buyers, some developers are collaborating with banks to provide fixed interest rates for a specified period, enhancing the festive appeal.

This festive season is expected to witness a surge in new property launches, consistent with trends from previous years. Given the strong performance in the first half of 2024 and the sector's propensity to peak during the festive season, both sales and new launches are anticipated to surpass 300,000 units for the second consecutive year.

Despite higher loan rates, homeownership remains a priority for many. Data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows a significant 40% increase in home loan deployment, reflecting resilience and confidence in the housing market. However, credit providers must remain vigilant in managing Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) effectively, the report stated.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

WHEN GOATS COME HOME

A shepherd returning with his flock post grazing in the fields

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Senior care homes getting full, fast

Emotional toll of separation from family remains evident, a sentiment often expressed by residents themselves

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In a sad development, demand for senior care homes is surging in and around Bengaluru's urban and rural districts, with daily calls requesting admission, despite many homes being full. Currently, three government-funded and seven private senior homes provide shelter and care for the elderly and are operating at full capacity to accommodate as many residents as possible in the rural district. Despite this, requests for accommodation continue to pour in through the department's senior citizen helplines, with calls from family members seeking placement for their parents and some from seniors themselves. Additionally, community members often report cases of homeless elderly individuals seen in public areas, urging authorities to offer them shelter and safety.

According to Jagadeesh, welfare officer at the Department of Empowerment of Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities, many senior homes are reaching their capacity. With the existing homes providing accommodations, food, and medical care for approximately 400 seniors aged between 50 and 80, the emotional toll of separation from family remains evident, a sentiment often expressed by the residents themselves.

An official said, "Homeless shelter requests have also increased, particularly in the outskirts of Bengaluru. The district receives a steady influx of migrants seeking livelihoods, which includes some individuals facing mental health challenges or those abandoned by family, leaving them to fend for themselves on the streets without food or shelter. While various organisations and authorities act on public calls to aid these individuals, the lack of sufficient homeless shelters remains a challenge. To support the well-being of the elderly, the Bengaluru Rural District's senior citizens department has implemented several activities, notably a weekly entertainment day every Friday in senior homes, featuring recreational events and sports. Additionally, every Saturday longer-term programmes prioritise personal hygiene for seniors. These initiatives aim to reach seniors directly in their communities, providing them with essential care and support."

> **"The lack of sufficient homeless shelters in Bengaluru districts remains a challenge** –Official

A senior citizen at Sandhya Kiran, Bengaluru (File photo)

DID YOU KNOW?

The largest known living thing on Earth in terms of area is the enormous honey fungus Armillaria ostoyae, sometimes known as the Humongous Fungus. It spans an incredible 2,385 acres (965 hectares) and is situated in Oregon, USA's Malheur National Forest. Its age is estimated to be 2,400 years. Mycelia, which resembles underground roots, is how it spreads. Regretfully, this parasitic fungus damages tree roots, which contributes to the loss of forests. Although it is enormous underground, the visible sections (mushrooms) are tiny and only show up in the fall. The Humongous Fungus is a wonderful illustration of how one organism may grow to enormous proportions over time, despite its destructive propensity. At their roots, mushrooms are typically beneficial to trees. However, a variety of tree species are killed by honey mushrooms. As the fungus oozes out of cracks in the bark, the trees push it out in retaliation. Most likely, it's a lost cause. Scientists estimate that it may weigh at least 7,500 tons and possibly as much as 35,000 tons if it were all gathered up and heaped together. More than two hundred gray whales would weigh that much.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Can you share a memorable experience you've had in a park or green space in Bengaluru?

Kavya S, BM Reader
Yeah, I enjoy visiting Lalbagh, and it's a truly delightful experience. The garden, teeming with a variety of lush plants, offers a refreshing retreat from the city's hustle and bustle.

Sumanth S Naik, BM Reader
I conduct heritage walks in Cubbon Park. An interesting thing I found is that even people who have been in Bengaluru for more than 25 years and have visited the park many times don't know about the heritage of the park.

Martin Kuriakose, BM Reader
A visit to Doddaladamara stands out as one of the most joyful and memorable experiences I've had. The time spent there with my classmates was truly wonderful. We shared a meal together, strengthening our bonds over shared stories and laughter.

Siddaraju D BM Reader
Jinke Park in Shreenagar is a beautiful place filled with greenery. I visited this park and had a wonderful time with my family. We enjoyed the peaceful surroundings and the beauty of nature. We took many beautiful pictures.

Lazurus Lepcha, BM Reader
Bannerghatta National Park was the destination of a leisure trip I took with my students. We spent our time exploring the park, marvelling at the wildlife. Lunchtime was delightful, with everyone sharing food and stories.

Asha Sherpa, BM Reader
Visiting the Butterfly Park at Bannerghatta Biological Park is a truly enchanting experience. This unique park is home to a diverse range of butterflies. You're greeted by the sight of these beautiful creatures fluttering.

SPEAK TO US

What aspects of Bengaluru's climate contribute to your belief that it's the best city to live in?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at WhatsApp us on 9591233247 or mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Reuse diyas: Let your lamps light way to sustainability

Iffath Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To celebrate Deepavali in a more eco-friendly way and to align with the festival's ethos of light and renewal, sustainability experts in the city have recommended reusing diyas. Diyas, which are small clay lamps, traditionally represent light winning over darkness. But each Deepavali, thousands of these lamps are made, often used once and discarded, which isn't very good for the environment.

However, by reusing diyas, one can keep the tradition alive, create less waste, and save resources. On this note, the Beautiful Bharat awareness campaign is highlighting ways to reduce resources consumed and waste generated.

Odette Katrak from Beautiful Bharat said, "This year, apart from cracker waste, we have also focused on reuse of diyas, which most people consider a single-use item, leading to huge amounts discarded in the week after Deepavali, often as mixed waste that reaches landfills. Diyas are biodegradable, but they consume resources to produce, and the top soil used to produce diyas is now known to be depleting, so reuse addresses this issue."

As part of the campaign, Beautiful Bharat put out an appeal by a

Domlur store vendor, Narendra Patel, who says, "I suggest users must reuse diyas for at least 12 years. They are made of mud and can be stored and reused year after year." Katrak added, "It is clear that his (Patel's) concern is for the planet, not profit, because he understands that if people listen to him, he'll sell fewer diyas. This appeal has been circulated widely not only in Bengaluru but across the country, and we hope it casts focus on another dimension of eco-conscious celebrations."

Katrak further added that they have circulated messages across city groups, requesting residents to take simple prior measures by placing marked cartons or bins to collect the dry waste (cracker boxes, packaging, wrapping, etc) which otherwise reaches landfills instead of getting recycled. "A second carton for the toxic waste can also help reduce the chemicals that are spread across streets. This reduces the burden on our pourakarmikas to clean the remains of our celebrations, at a time when they too would like to be celebrating," she added.

Tips for reusing diyas

Clean and store carefully: After the Deepavali festival, clean and remove leftover oil from the diyas and let them dry fully. Store them safely in a dry place for next use.
Decorate old diyas: If old diyas look worn out, try decorating them with natural, safe paints. This can be a fun family activity.
Repurpose broken diyas: You could use broken diyas as a small plant holder or as a decorative item around the house too.

State's roads claim 1 life per hour

Karnataka witnesses 9 road accidents every 2 hours; records 11,702 deaths, 39,763 accidents in 2022: Data

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

File photo of a car involved in an accident being towed on a state highway near Bengaluru

Did you know that Karnataka experiences about nine road accidents every two hours and one fatality due to accidents every hour? When examining accidents per hour, the state ranks fifth with a rate of 4.5390 accidents per hour. The states with higher accidents per hour than Karnataka are Tamil Nadu (7.3179), Madhya Pradesh (6.2137), Kerala (5.0126), and Uttar Pradesh (4.7655).

According to the data released by the Centre, in 2022, Karnataka recorded a total of 11,702 deaths due to road accidents, with a total of 39,762 road accidents, making it the fifth highest in the country. Tamil Nadu recorded 17,884 fatalities and 64,105 accidents; Madhya Pradesh had 13,427 fatalities and 54,432 accidents; and Uttar Pradesh had 22,595 fatalities and 41,746 accidents. Kerala recorded 43,910 accidents, and Maharashtra had 15,224 fatalities.

The high number of fatalities underscores the severe impact of road accidents in Karnataka. Additionally, Karnataka's fatalities per hour rate stands at 1.3358, ranking it fifth in the country. The states with higher fatalities per hour are Uttar Pradesh (2.5793), Tamil Nadu (2.0416), Maharashtra (1.7379), and Madhya Pradesh (1.5328). This data indicates that Karnataka has a considerable rate of fatalities per hour due to road accidents, highlighting the urgent need for effective road safety measures in the state.

Road safety initiatives

In a recent reply to the Parliament, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the Ministry to enhance road safety. "In terms of road engineering, the Ministry has made Road Safety Audits (RSA) of all national highways (NH) mandatory through third-party auditors/experts at all stages, including design, construction, operation, and maintenance. High priority is given to identifying and rectifying black spots/accident spots on NHs. A Road Safety Officer (RSO) is designated at each regional office to oversee RSA and other road safety-related works," Gadkari said.

He stated that the RSO is required to submit a road worthiness certificate of NHs under their jurisdiction biannually. The Ministry also administers the electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) Project to establish a central repository for reporting, managing, and analysing road accident data across the country. Moreover, guidelines for signage on expressways and NHs have been issued to improve visibility and provide intuitive guidance to drivers.

Gadkari said that the Ministry has mandated various safety measures to make vehicles safer. This includes the mandatory provision of an airbag for the passenger seated on the front seat next to the driver and prescribed norms related to safety measures for children below four years of age riding on a motorcycle. Mandatory provisions for safety technologies such as seat belt reminders (SBR), manual override for central locking systems, overspeed warning systems, reverse parking alert systems, and anti-lock braking systems (ABS) for certain vehicle categories have been implemented.

The Ministry has also mandated speed-limiting devices in all transport vehicles, except for specific exempt categories. Rules for Automated Testing Stations have been published, defining procedures for fitness testing of vehicles and the issuance of fitness certificates. The Vehicle Scrapping Policy has been formulated to phase out old, unfit, and polluting vehicles. Additionally, a scheme has been set up to establish one model inspection and certification centre in each state/UT with Central assistance for automated vehicle fitness testing. The Bharat New Car Assessment Program (BNCAP) has been introduced to rate the safety of passenger cars, empowering consumers to make informed decisions. Rules regarding the manufacturing of buses by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and bus body builders have also been published. Lastly, vehicles manufactured on or after October 1, 2025, are required to be fitted with an air-conditioning system for the cabin of goods vehicles in specific categories.

> **Guidelines for signage on expressways & national highways have been issued to improve visibility & provide intuitive guidance to drivers**
>
> –Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways

IN BRIEF

Firecracker violations: 56 cases in 2 days

A total of 56 cases of firecracker violations were registered across various police divisions in the city between Thursday and Friday (until 5 pm) during the Deepavali festival. According to the reports, nine cases each were booked in Central Division, North Division, South East Division and Whitefield Division; four in South Division, six in East Division. The North East Division recorded the highest number of violations with 19 cases, while the West Division reported no violations.

In a separate instance, two men were caught for riding recklessly on an electric two-wheeler and throwing lit firecrackers on the roadway at Hennur Main Road on Thursday night. The police said that appropriate legal action will be taken against the riders, identified as Aditya Saravan and Akshay Kumar. —BMB

Crackers! 12 eye injuries in 1 day

The number of firecracker injuries continues to rise in the city, with most of the injured being bystanders. At Minto Hospital, multiple cases have been reported, some involving serious injuries. Similarly, Sankara Eye Hospital has recorded 12 cases of firecracker-related eye injuries on Friday—eight of which are children and four are adults. Among the pediatric cases, two have sustained serious injuries with corneal tears. One case involves a 5-year-old who has already undergone surgery, while the other is a 10-year-old awaiting a surgical procedure.

Experts said it is essential to keep children at a safe distance from firecrackers and never allow them to handle crackers alone. In the event of burns, rinse the affected area with cold water and seek medical help immediately. "Always be careful and light crackers in open areas, and avoid eating sweets or food from unknown sources to prevent stomach issues," said an expert.—BMB

Burning issue: Panchayat helpless, points to police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but is also a health hazard for people residing at nearby areas,'' said Kapildev C Ullal, a resident.

Expressing similar opinion, Vijeth Shetty, another resident, said that he has lodged complaints on BBMP Sahaya App about burning of garbage but nothing is done to stop it.

"Burning of garbage is happening on a daily basis. We have complained to the BBMP authorities but they washed their hands off it stating that the area where garbage is being burned does not come under their jurisdiction.

Smoke emanating from burning of garbage is a health hazard for the people residing in the vicinity,'' said Shetty.

Demanding the BBMP officials find a permanent solution to the burning of garbage, Abhik Ghosh, a resident, said that he has already complained to the BBMP and also sent videos of burning garbage but they did nothing.

"Burning of garbage will become a major health hazard if no measures are taken to stop it. The Kannur Panchayat authorities and BBMP Marshals must step in to stop burning of garbage for all the people residing in and around Bellahalli and Kannur,'' said Ghosh.

Blaming the BBMP for ruining the lives of villagers by dumping garbage at Bellalli landfill, Kannur Village Panchayat President Ashok S said the burning of garbage is happening at private lands and the Panchayat does not have sufficient manpower to keep a vigil on burning of garbage.

"The BBMP Marshals appointed for Bellahalli landfill must keep a vigil on those responsible for burning garbage. Let the BBMP direct the Marshals to take preventive measures to stop the burning,'' Ashok said.

Sibananda Choudhury, Supervisor, BBMP Marshals, told BM that the area where garbage is being burnt does not come under the BBMP's jurisdiction.

"Burning of garbage is happening at a private land which is one km away from Bellahalli landfill. We have tried our best to stop burning of garbage but in vain as we do not have the power to penalise them as they were using private land to burn garbage.

I believe it is the jurisdictional police that have to take action against those burning garbage,'' said Choudhury.

BBMP engineer in-charge of Bellahalli landfill remained unavailable for comments.

'Govt should only cancel cards obtained using false info'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the official, the Department noticed that many ineligible beneficiaries were still receiving benefits. "From 2018 to 2020, a total of 12,47,151 cards were cancelled, including 9,301 Antyodaya cards and 10,18,963 BPL cards. The department has resumed efforts to identify ineligible BPL and Antyodaya beneficiaries by revisiting the previous eligibility criteria. These criteria include families where members pay taxes, have government or semi-government jobs, work in various boards or corporations, are employed in companies, rent out houses for income, own more than 7.5 acres of dry or irrigated land, or possess four-wheeled vehicles."

Earlier, the Food and Civil Supplies Department obtained a list of tax-paying families and took steps to cancel their BPL cards. Additionally, they identified registered vehicles through Aadhaar and cancelled BPL cards belonging to such families.

The department has now resumed this process. "If someone has obtained a BPL card using false information, they must voluntarily return it to the local office. Otherwise, the department will recover the cost of rice or other grains received (at Rs. 35 per kg of rice) and file criminal cases against such individuals," said an official.

Demand to revise unscientific criteria

There is a growing demand to reconsider the criteria used to cancel BPL cards. "Currently, 80% of the families in the state own vehicles like two-wheelers, three-wheelers, or cars, and almost every household owns a vehicle. The average electricity bill paid is more than Rs. 450. BPL cards should not be canceled based on these criteria. With the rising cost of essentials, families earning a salary of Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 20,000 find it difficult to manage expenses. The government should consider this and cancel BPL cards only for those who are well-off and have got the card using false documents," added an official.

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Transformer blast deaths: Criminal charges will stay

High Court says despite complaints, Bescom failed to fix defect in transformer

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The Karnataka High Court has declined to dismiss criminal charges against a BESCOM Junior Engineer following the deaths of a father and daughter due to a transformer explosion on a road.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, in his ruling, stated, "There were several complaints, before the fateful day, to rectify the defect in the transformer. The Police, on investigation, have appended those complaints to the charge sheet. These are undisputed facts. Prima facie negligence is writ large qua the petitioner, or other accused in the case at hand. Therefore, there is no warrant to interfere with the on-going trial against the petitioner."

The incident occurred on March 23, 2022, when Shivaraj and his daughter were traveling on a two-wheeler. A roadside BESCOM transformer exploded, causing burning oil to fall on them. They were rushed to Victoria Hospital but succumbed to their injuries.

A bystander filed a complaint under Sections 285, 338 of the IPC. After investigation, police added Section 304A (causing death due to negligence) to the chargesheet. The Junior Engineer sought case dismissal, claiming no responsibility for the transformer explosion and arguing it was an accident. He stated the maintenance responsibility lay with contractors. The prosecution countered that the petitioner was responsible for transformer inspection and safety, noting unaddressed prior complaints.

The court determined that despite outsourcing, the petitioner remained responsible for transformer maintenance. The Electrical Inspectorate's report indicated the accident was preventable through proper maintenance of the explosion vent and oil leakage checks.

Compensation can't override negligence

The court rejected the argument about the Rs 20,00,000 compensation paid to the deceased's wife, stating, "Said submission is preposterous to say the least. Payment of any amount of compensation by BESCOM, can by no stretch of imagination absolve the officers of the allegation of dereliction of duty." The court further emphasised that compensation cannot override duty negligence, warning that similar incidents could affect others if officers avoid responsibility through compensation. The petition was subsequently dismissed.

Families of 98 sentenced to appeal verdict

Family members of 98 individuals sentenced to life imprisonment in the violence at Marukumbi village case plan to appeal the verdict in the High Court.

The convicts' relatives anticipate significant hardships as the breadwinners of their families have now been convicted, including difficulties in providing education for their children. Several families have already initiated consultations with legal representatives.

Local residents have also expressed concerns about potential renewed tensions in Marukumbi, as families of the convicted individuals are dissatisfied with the court's decision. The verdict's impact extends to neighboring villages, where some businesses temporarily closed. Law enforcement officials have successfully convinced local establishments to resume operations after visiting the affected areas.

Case background

The Koppal Principal District and Sessions Court found 101 individuals guilty in a case involving atrocities against Scheduled Castes in Marakumbi village, Karnataka. Of these, 98 received life sentences with Rs 5,000 fines under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act. Three convicts, being SC/ST members themselves, received five-year sentences with Rs 2,000 fines. Judge C Chandra Shekhar delivered the verdict on October 24 after finding 101 of 117 accused guilty.

The judge, citing the Supreme Court's Manju Devi case, noted that SC/ST communities remain vulnerable despite improvement measures, facing continuous rights violations and harassment. "Considering the facts and circumstances of this case, I do not find any extenuating or mitigating circumstances available on the record, which justify showing any leniency. To show mercy in a case like this would be a travesty of justice..." stated the judgment.

IMD forecasts warm November with no hint of winter

India experienced its warmest October since 1901 with mean temperature recording 1.23 degrees Celsius above normal, the weather office said on Friday. It predicted a warmer November, giving no indication of the upcoming winter.

Addressing a press conference here, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrityunjay Mohapatra attributed the warmer weather to the absence of western disturbances and influx of easterly winds due to active low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal.

The mean temperature in October was recorded at 26.92 degrees Celsius, the warmest since 1901, against the normal of 25.69 degrees Celsius, Mohapatra said.

The minimum temperature also clocked 21.85 degrees C against the normal of 20.01 degrees C for the country. "In north-western India, north-westerly winds are needed for lower temperatures. The monsoonal flow was also there that does not allow fall in temperature," Mohapatra said. He said the temperatures will continue to remain 2-5 degrees above normal in the north-western plains at least for the next two weeks, before a decline towards normalcy.

Mohapatra said the weather office does not count November as a winter month. He said January and February are considered as winter months, while the hints of the cold weather are available in December.

North-east monsoon expected to bring above normal rainfall in parts of Karnataka

In the southern peninsula, the north-east monsoon is expected to bring above normal rainfall in November in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala and Mahe and south interior Karnataka. "The above normal to normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country except northwest India and some areas of central India," the weather office said.

The delay in the onset of cold weather conditions could also be on account of the continued prevalence of the neutral El Nino conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. They said the probability forecast indicates a higher chance of La Nina conditions developing during November-December in a gradual manner. —PTI

ISRO's analogue space mission kicks off at Leh

ISRO on Friday said its analogue space mission has taken off at Leh in Ladakh, where it will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat as India prepares to send a human to the moon.

The initiative is a collaborative effort of the Human Spaceflight Centre, ISRO, AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and supported by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.

The month-long mission, kicked off mid-October, comes in the wake of India's plans to set up lunar habitats, which could provide a base to launch inter-planetary missions. The geographical features of Ladakh are considered to resemble Martian and lunar landscapes and are an ideal training ground for scientific missions aimed at exploring planets "India's first analog space mission kicks off in Leh...this mission will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat to tackle the challenges of a base station beyond Earth," ISRO said in a post on X.

The team of AAKA Space Studio is testing environment suits and conducting geological studies in Leh's low-oxygen environment, simulating space-like conditions, studies that could be crucial for future space missions. The team is also studying how the human body adapts to the harsh weather conditions in Ladakh that could be useful in understanding how astronauts could get used to space like conditions. —PTI

Geographical features of Ladakh make it ideal place for training

RUNNING SUCCESSFULLY

PVR - INOX CINEMAS {DIRECTORS CUT, FORUM REX WALK, 9:30, 12:55, 3:30, 6:45, 9:30 p.m. | NEXUS FORUM MALL, KORMANGALA, 8:35, 9:25, 11:55, 12:30, 3:40, 6:30, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | ORION MALL, YESHWANTPUR, 8:40, 9:40, 12:05, 12:45, 3:30, 3:55, 6:55, 10:20 p.m. | VAISHNAVI SAPPHIRE MALL, TUMKUR ROAD, 8:55, 12:20, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | VEGA CITY MALL, 8:30, 9:15, 12:10, 3:35, 6:55, 10:30 p.m., IN ATMOS : 12:15, 3:15, 10:10 p.m. | MSR REGALIA, 8:50, 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | PHOENIX MARKET CITY, K.R. PURAM, 8:50, 12:15, 2:25, 3:40, 5:50, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | BHARTIYA CITY, 9:10, 12:20, 3:50, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | GT WORLD MALL, 9:00, 3:15, 10:00 p.m. | AURA PARK SQUARE, WHITEFIELD ROAD, 12:00, 6:35, 10:00 p.m. | SPIRIT MALL, 9:00, 3:55, 10:30 p.m. | VR MALL, WHITEFIELD ROAD, 8:30, 11:30, 12:00, 2:35, 3:25, 6:05, 6:50, 9:30, 10:15 p.m. | GLOBAL MALL, NAYANDALLI, 9:00, 11:50, 6:35, 10:00 p.m. | FALCON CITY MALL KANAKAPURA ROAD, 9:00, 9:40, 12:25, 12:50, 3:40, 6:45, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | UPTOWN OMR MALL, 9:00, 3:35, 10:10 p.m. | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY | PHOENIX MALL OF ASIA,12:20, 6:55 p.m., IN ATMOS : 8:35, 9:05, 11:45, 12:30, 3:10, 3:55, 6:35, 6:50, 10:00, 10:30 p.m. | MANTRI MALL, 9:00, 7:05 p.m., IN ATMOS : 12:15, 3:25, 10:10 p.m. | CENTRAL MALL, J.P.NAGAR, 9:20, 12:45, 6:45 p.m. | GARUDA MALL, 9:10, 12:35, 3:55, 6:35, 10:00 p.m. | SWAGATH MALL, 12:35, 10:20 p.m. | BROOKFIELD MALL, 9:00, 3:35, 10:10 p.m. | LIDO, 12:20, 6:55 p.m. | VALUE MALL, 9:05, 12:30, 3:45, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | GALLERIA MALL, RMZ YELAHANKA, 9:05, 12:30, 7:05 p.m., IN ATMOS : 10:20 p.m.| GARUDA, YELAHANKA, 9:00, 3:35, 10:10p.m. | SBR HORIZON, SEEGEHALLI, 9:00, 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 10:10 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL, 9:30, 10:00, 12:30, 3:55, 7:05, 10:10, 10:25 p.m. | ETA MALL, BINNY MILL,9:00, 9:30, 12:10: 3:35, 6:45, 7:00, 10:10, 10:25 p.m. | EAST ORION MALL, 9:35, 12:30, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | SHANTINIKETAN, 8:30, 9:20, 11:55, 2:50, 3:55, 6:15, 6:45, 10:10, 10:30 p.m. | SJR SPECTRUM MALL, 9:20, 12:20, 3:44, 4:05, 6:55, 10:30 p.m. | LULU MALL (TRD), 8:30, 9:10, 11:40, 12:30, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20 p.m. | LULU MALL (VIP), 9:45, 4:25, 10:30 p.m.} | GOPALAN CINEMAS {ARCADE MALL, 9:45 p.m. | LEGACY MALL, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | GRAND MALL, 11:00, 4:00, 9:45 p.m. | SIGNATURE MALL, 1:30, 6:45 p.m. | INNOVATION MALL, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00 p.m.} | INNOVATIVE {MARATHHALLI, 10:00, 12:45, 3:00, 7:00, 9:45 p.m.} | CINEPHILE {HSR LAYOUT, 10:00, 1:00, 4:15, 10:00 p.m.} | MIRAJ CINEMAS {SUNKADAKATTE, 5 SHOWS} | MOVIE TIME {DAVANGERE, 10:00, 7:30 p.m. | BELLARY, 10:00, 4:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | RR NAGAR, 10:00, 4:00, 6:45, 10:30 p.m.} | NEW FANGLED MULTIPLEX {12:00, 3:15, 6:45, 9:15, 10:15 p.m.} | SRINIVASA THEATRE {SG PALYA, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 p.m.} | PRASANNA THEATRE {DAILY 2 SHOWS} | SANTOSH RPC LAYOUT {DAILY 3 SHOWS} | VINAYAKA THEATRE {VARTHUR, 7:30 p.m.} | VAISHNAVI VYBHAVI {DAILY 3 SHOWS} | VYBHAV THEATRE {1:15, 4:15, 7:00 p.m.} | KAMAKYA THEATRE {1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | RADHAKRISHNA CHITRAMANDIRA {10:30 p.m.} | SRI RAMA THEATRE {RAMANAGARA, TOTAL 3 SHOWS} | NARTHAKI THEATRE {KG ROAD, DAILY 5 SHOWS} | SIDDALINGESHWARA {1:30, 7:30 p.m.} | VENKATESWARA {KENGERI, 8:30 p.m.} | BALAJI {CHIKKALSANDRA, 7:30 p.m.} | ROCKLINE {1:00, 4:00, 9:45 p.m.} | KINO CINEMAS {4:30, 10:30 p.m.} | V CLASS CINEMAS {1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | SHANKARNAG {1:45, 7:30 p.m.} | MAHADESHWARA {DAILY 2 SHOWS} | RAVI THEATRE {SARJAPURA, 9:45 p.m.} | PVR - INOX CINEMAS {FIZA MALL, MANGALORE, 9:15, 12:40, 6:40, 10:05 p.m. | FORUM MALL, MYSORE, 9:05, 3:40, 6:35, 10:15 p.m. | GARUDA MALL, MYSORE, 9:00, 3:45, 10:30 p.m. | CENTRAL, MANIPAL, 9:15, 3:45, 10:30 p.m. | SATYAM MALL, MYSORE, 8:55, 12:00, 6:45 p.m. | S MALL, TUMKUR, 8:45, 12:10, 6:45, 10:10 p.m. | CENTRO MALL MYSORE, 9:10, 3:45, 10:20 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {CITY CENTRE MALL, MANGALORE, 9:20, 12:30, 3:55, 7:05, 10:30 p.m.} | BHARATH CINEMAS {MANGALORE, 10:15, 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | MANIPAL, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | KUNDAPUR, 10:15, 1:15, 7:15, 10:00 p.m. | PADUBIDRE, 4 SHOWS | PUTTUR, 10:15, 4:30, 7:30 p.m. | SHIMOGA, 5 SHOWS | UDUPI, 4:30, 10:15 p.m.} | DRC CINEMAS {MYSORE, 4 SHOWS} | JAI BHARATH {TUMKUR} | TRINETRA THEATRE {Davanagere} | VASANTHA THEATRE {Davanagere} | NATARAJ COMPLEX {Bellary} | LAKSHMI THEATRE {Hospet} | CINE GALAXY {SURATKAL, 11:00, 4:45, 7:00, 10:00 p.m.} | VISION CINEMA {MYSORE, 4 SHOWS} | SRI BALAJI DELUXE THEATRE {MYSORE, TOTAL 3 SHOWS} | SANGAM {MYSORE, TOTAL 4 SHOWS} | SAHYADRI {HASSAN, TOTAL 4 SHOWS}.

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FARNAZ

HEALTH TIP: Apple cider vinegar has strong antifungal properties, so it can help treat ringworm when applied to the infected area

Ginger has anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties that boost immunity

Do pills help with PCOS?

Find out about expert view on taking medicines to manage condition

PCOS is a chronic endocrinological condition that affects various facets of your health including your reproductive, metabolic and psychological. Lifestyle modification, dietary changes, and exercise are the first line of treatment and are the most effective solution for the long term but some women may need medical management as well. Among the various treatment options, taking pills, such as hormonal contraceptives, is often prescribed to manage symptoms and regulate menstrual cycles. But does it truly help? Let's see what the expert says:

Dr. Mansi Verma, Gynaecologist, shares insights about who will need medication and things one need to be aware of before popping in that pill.

Do all women with PCOS need medications?

Short answer, no. Depending on the woman's symptoms, medical history and any co-morbidities, a doctor can evaluate if medications are needed. Some commonly prescribed medications are oral contraceptive pills or birth control pills, metformin (insulin-sensitising drug) and sometimes nutraceuticals like myoinositol supplement. Some women with PCOS who aren't able to conceive naturally after making lifestyle modifications can be prescribed ovulation-inducing drugs to help stimulate ovulation and increase the chances of pregnancy.

Medications are not a bad thing

Taking medications is often seen as a failure to manage PCOS - this is not true. One of the reasons why women hesitate to take medication is because they want to either manage it on their own or "naturally". But in PCOS, sometimes treating the underlying hormonal imbalance may require more than just making lifestyle changes. Taking medications can actually give you the time to make lifestyle corrections, lose weight and follow a healthy routine. Most medications prescribed for PCOS are only a temporary correction to help regulate hormones that are imbalanced. These medicines help achieve the required therapeutic window which may not be achieved naturally for the patient. Having said that, taking medications is not a replacement for making lifestyle modifications. Lifestyle changes with medications make the therapy the most effective.

What are the common medications for PCOS?

There is no single pill or treatment method for PCOS. Medications are usually prescribed to correct hormonal imbalances which can in turn mitigate symptoms like irregular periods, weight gain, hirsutism, acne and scalp hair loss, among others.

Oral contraceptives or birth control pills

Apart from protecting from unwanted pregnancies, oral contraceptive pills (OCPs) are effective in regularising period cycles and reducing male hormone levels. OCPs don't make you infertile, nor do they affect your chances of getting pregnant.

Metformin

Metformin is a drug which is usually prescribed for diabetic patients to reduce blood sugar levels by improving the insulin sensitivity of the peripheral tissues (muscles). Since nearly 70% of women with PCOS suffer from insulin resistance, taking metformin can help reduce insulin resistance, and thereby the production of androgens as well (male hormones).

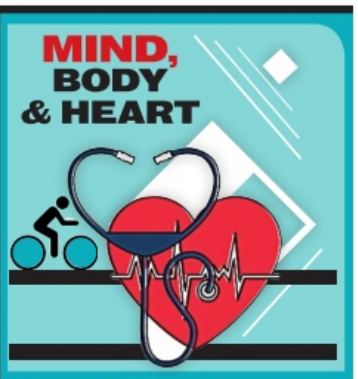
Anti-androgen drugs

Increased levels of androgens or male hormones can cause symptoms such as excess facial hair, acne and scalp hair loss. Anti-androgen drugs are prescribed to help reduce male hormone levels and improve the symptoms. However, anti-androgen drugs are usually prescribed after lifestyle changes and 6 months of oral contraceptive pills course hasn't shown improvements.

Medical Verdict

Medications form an important part of treating PCOS, and there is nothing wrong with taking medications to manage your symptoms. Although not all women may need it, medications for PCOS are very effective in treating hormonal imbalances and help you get on top of your PCOS and manage it with greater confidence.

—Kayalvizhi Arivalan, Femina



All you need to know about...

Insomnia therapy

Helps postpartum depression

While poor sleep during pregnancy and after that is common, Canadian researchers suggested cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBTi), which can not only improve sleep patterns but also address postpartum depression.

Detect thoughts

The team from the University of British Columbia Okanagan and Vancouver campus University of Calgary showed that CBTi, which can detect thoughts, behaviours, and sleep patterns that lead to insomnia, during pregnancy can significantly prevent the risk of postpartum depressive symptoms after a baby arrives.

Restructuring habits

The therapeutic intervention includes challenging or reframing misconceptions and restructuring habits to improve sleep quality.

Dr. Elizabeth Keys, an Assistant Professor in UBCO's School of Nursing noted that early intervention with CBTi may be crucial both for the baby and the mother.

Keys said that CBTi -- the gold standard for the treatment of insomnia -- is similar to antidepressant medications. Since it comes with fewer side effects, the therapy is considered safe in pregnancy.

What is postpartum depression

Postpartum depression (PPD) is a mood disorder that can affect women and men after childbirth. It can impact a person's behaviour and physical health. Crying more than usual, feeling angry, distant from the baby, doubting the ability to care for the baby, and thoughts of harming the baby or yourself are the common symptoms. The study included 62 women assessed for insomnia and depressive symptoms. While half were randomly assigned to an intervention group, the others were added to a control group. Keys said the next thing is to find ways to "make the treatment more accessible to pregnant individuals to improve sleep health equity." **—IANS**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Cannabis may not be directly causing changes in brain, more studies needed: Research

Changes in brains of people consuming cannabis over long-term, including poor white matter connectivity -- known to affect cognition -- may not have been caused by cannabis, a genetic study has suggested, even as researchers said more studies are needed to understand long-term effects of the drug.

Dried leaves from the cannabis or marijuana plant are smoked or chewed for euphoric effect.

Looking at genetic and MRI brain scan data of nearly 16,000 cannabis users from the UK Biobank dataset, the researchers also found that long-term consumers of the drug had problems in their default mode network, known to be at play while one is letting their mind wander or reflecting.

However, when the researchers at the University of Oxford, UK, applied methods of analysis to discern direct cause-and-effect links, they found that cannabis did not cause the detrimental changes to the cannabis-consumers' brains. Further, the team cautioned that the results, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Mental Health, "need to be interpreted with careful consideration", and added that more research is needed to understand effects of heavy use and cannabis potency.

Cannabis use is increasing worldwide following its legalisation for medicinal purposes, such as treating chronic pain, in many countries, including high-income ones.

However, legalising the drug for recreational use is being debated around the world, even as countries such as Canada and Germany have legalised its use in limited capacity.

While studies have shown cannabis to negatively affect brain function and structure, potential effects due to long-term use and information regarding a 'safe threshold' of drug remain unclear, the researchers said.

Therefore, the team used the analytical technique called 'Mendelian randomisation', which looks at genetic variants to know if exposure to a certain risk factor can cause a given outcome.

The researchers found that effects of consuming cannabis were especially evident in the 'corpus callosum' -- the main communication route between the left and right sides of the brain.

The affected brain regions, including those involved in the default mode network, were densely packed with cannabinoid receptors, or 'targets' for cannabis, the team said.

Further, consuming cannabis was found to affect men and women differently -- significant changes were seen in six specific brain regions in men, while among women, the changes were more widespread across 24 structures and regions. **— PTI**

 # Meet Dua Padukone Singh

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh treated fans to the first glimpse of their newborn daughter. The couple also revealed that they have named their daughter 'Dua', which means prayer

Starry festival of lights

How celebs celebrated Deepavali

Bollywood celebrities shared their Deepavali celebrations with excitement, as the festival of lights was celebrated across the country. Here's how they shared the joy with their followers on social media. —ETimes

Shraddha Kapoor

On Thursday, Shraddha Kapoor shared her Diwali festivities with fans on her Instagram account. Looking adorable in a floral Anarkali dress, she posed with her furry pet in one picture, creating a sweet moment. Another image featured her celebrating with family, including her father, Shakti Kapoor, and veteran actress Padmini Kolhapure.

Janhvi Kapoor

Janhvi Kapoor was spotted at her father Boney Kapoor's Diwali puja, turning heads as she arrived at his office on Thursday evening. The actress looked absolutely stunning in a pastel saree, a gorgeous blend of mint green and blush pink, adorned with delicate floral embroidery. She completed her look with subtle jewelry, soft curls, and minimal makeup, embodying elegance and grace during the festive celebration.

Ayushmann Khurrana

Ayushmann Khurrana recently shared his Diwali celebrations on Instagram. In the first photo, he posed with his wife, Tahira Kashyap, both looking stunning in black traditional outfits and radiating joy as they embraced the festive spirit. He also included a lively video of himself playing the dhol, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. The post was captioned, "Chandigarh Diwali celebrations with every generation," offering a glimpse into the joyful family time they experienced during the festival.

Ananya Panday

Ananya Panday recently shared a cute picture on Instagram, giving fans a glimpse of her Diwali celebration. The actress posted an adorable photo featuring her cousin Alanna Panday's little one, melting hearts with their sweet moment together. This heartwarming snapshot captured the festive spirit and joy of family during the celebrations.

Neena Gupta

Veteran actress Neena Gupta, who recently embraced her role as a grandmother, joined in the Diwali celebrations by sharing family pictures on Instagram. She showcased her time with loved ones during the festival, expressing joy and warmth. Neena's daughter, Masaba Gupta, celebrated her first Diwali as a mother alongside her husband, Satyadeep Misra, with Neena and her husband, Vivek Mehra, also participating in the festivities.

Parineeti Chopra

Parineeti Chopra shared a series of beautiful pictures from her Diwali celebration on her Instagram account, giving fans a glimpse into her special day. She dazzled in a lahariya-printed full-sleeve kurta paired with a matching dupatta, elevating her festive look with a kundan choker necklace and a maang tikka. Her appearance was complemented by dewy makeup.

Rashmika Mandanna

Rashmika Mandanna wowed fans with her festive look during Diwali celebrations. Dressed in a white chikankari kurta, she took to Instagram to share a series of pictures from the festivities. Her simple yet elegant outfit, complemented by her radiant smile, made her a sight to behold as she celebrated the festival of lights. The actress's posts captured the joy and warmth of the occasion, further endearing her to her followers.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Vijay's support

The team of Dheera Bhagath Roy was on cloud nine when Duniya Vijay announced his support to it. Duniya Vijay was the chief guest at the movie's trailer launch recently.

"I am very happy to attend this function. The movie is about equality in society. I am a fan of movies based on revolution and freedom fighters. I was told that Dheera Bhagath Roy is about activists who fought for equality in society. I am

extending my support to this movie because it is very difficult for newcomers to bankroll movies in Sandalwood," said Vijay.

He said he watched the trailer of the movie and found it very interesting. "I want such movies to become successful at the box office. Sandalwood got a good director, hero and heroine through this movie. Let us all respect and give value to the story of the movie," he said.

The movie is directed by Karnan while Rakesh Dalawayi and Sucharita are the lead pair. The movie is about an advocate who fights for the downtrodden. Rakesh Dalwayi and Sucharita are making their debut as hero and heroine with this movie. The movie also features Sharath Lohitasva, Ninasam Ashwath, Praveen Gowda HC, Hariram, KM Sandesh, Sudheer Kumar. The movie is bankrolled under the White Lotus Entertainment and Sri Om Cini Entertainment banners.

Set for release

Debutant director Naveen GS is bullish about the success of his maiden movie Naa Ninna Bidalaare. This title was used more than four decades ago and another film with the same title was launched in June with Hemant and Apurva as the lead pair.

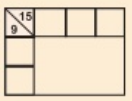
"Our movie's shooting was completed when Hemant announced his movie with a similar title. The plots of the movies are different. My movie is a unique horror movie. It does not follow the regular pattern based on revenge elements or some people visiting a haunted bungalow," said Naveen. The director said the movie has all elements to transport the audiences to different worlds. "It is my maiden movie. I have been working as an associate director for eight years for Kannada movies. The story is not based on any real-life incident," he said. The movie was shot at Bengaluru, Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru, Belur, and Madikeri. "We had a big set on Magadi Road to film a song on Swamy Raghavendra. It is a highlight of the film," he said.

The team of the movie released the song – Guru Saarvabhowmam – on Thursday through A2 Audio YouTube channel.

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

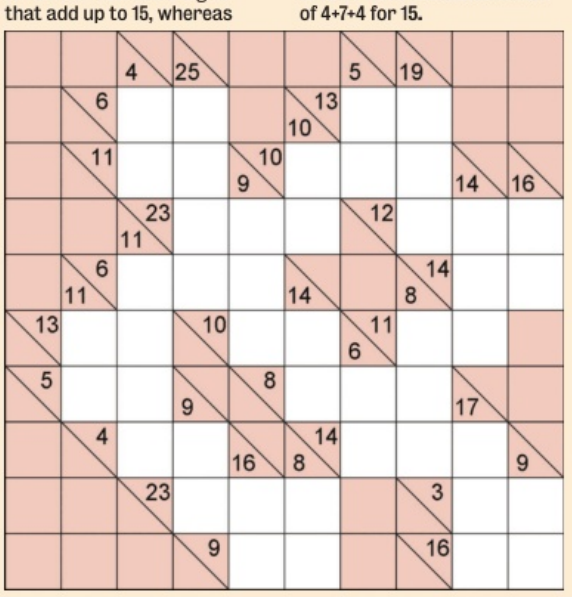
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

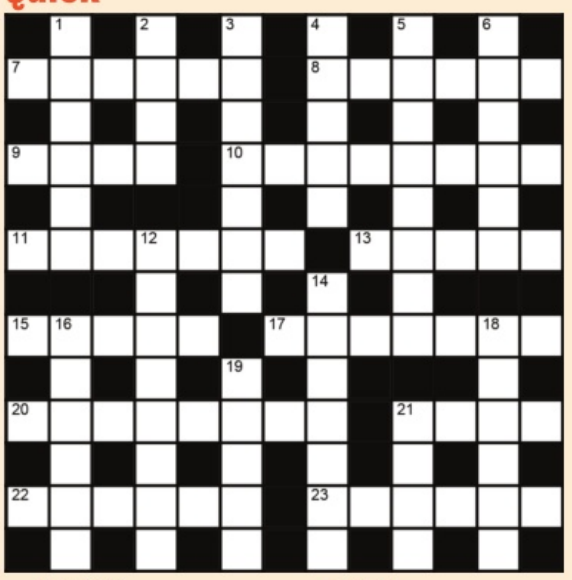


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Puzzle or mystery (6)
8 Black Sea port in Ukraine (6)
9 Fastens (4)
10 _____ oblige : French phrase meaning "Privilege entails responsibility"? (8)
11 Underwater missile (7)
13 Strides (5)
15 Hints (5)
17 Aircrafts that do not have an engine (7)
20 The Karate sticks? (8)
21 Ready to harvest (4)
22 Hate (6)
23 In a neat manner (6)

DOWN

1 Violet blue dye (6)
2 ___ on : incites or encourages (4)
3 Official language of Karnataka (7)
4 Searches thoroughly (5)
5 Discarded, abandoned or casted off (8)
6 Exhausts (4,2)
12 Evangelist (8)
14 Parades ostentatiously (7)
16 Garden shrub (6)
18 Slight wave (6)
19 Delicious (5)
21 Impolite (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS S

CGRUJSEAS WGE LOTDSQ FPRVJEG'L DS TVIP VFSE LOJJ LPSB WQS FSWFRGSE.

Linemaro

Excuse me, is this seat taken?

Mindchow

Don't let yesterday use up too much of today

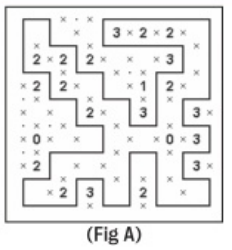
Joke of the day

A cabbage, a faucet, and a tomato had a race. The cabbage was ahead, the faucet was running, and the tomato tried to catch up.

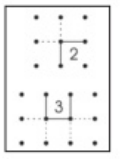
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

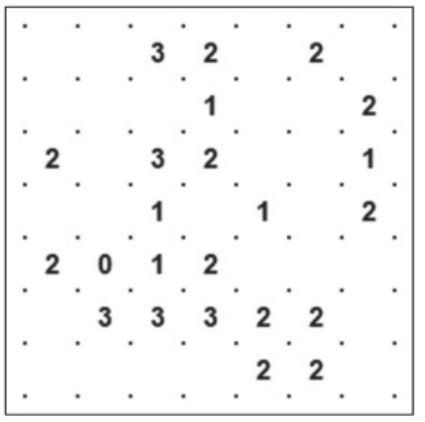


(Fig B) Not Allowed

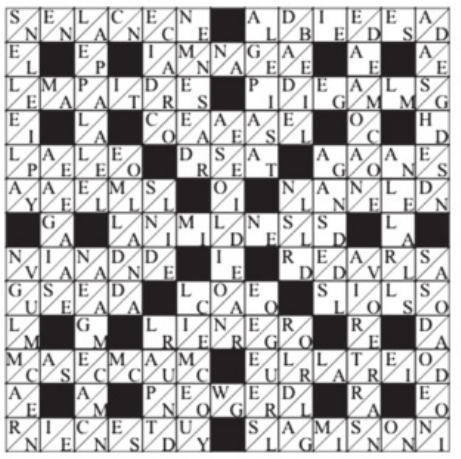
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8			V	
9				

ACROSS

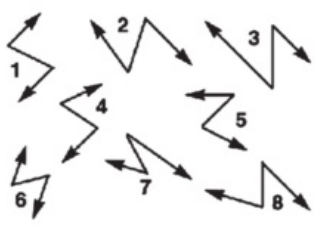
1 An par; 6 Learn; 7 Depot; 8 Verne; 9 A girl

DOWN

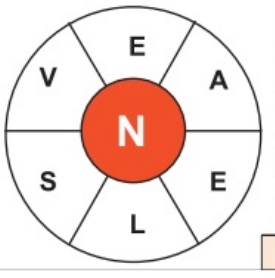
1 Or GNP; 2 Leper; 3 Ratan; 4 Eva in; 5 Lader

Mensapuzzle

One of the eight figures below does not belong in the group. It contains a basic common design feature not shared by the others. Which one is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4			3		8			5
		7				1		
9	3						4	6
1	2		6		5		8	3
6	8		4		1		2	7
7	9						6	2
		1				7		
8			7		6			9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15

6 7 7 9

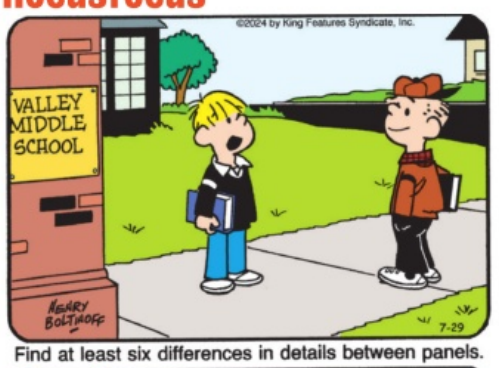
Medium = 16

3 7 8 8

Hard = 22

1 5 8 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cap is reversed. 2. Stripe is added to sleeve. 3. Hand is not in pocket. 4. Roof is not as long. 5. Tree is moved. 6. Book is added.

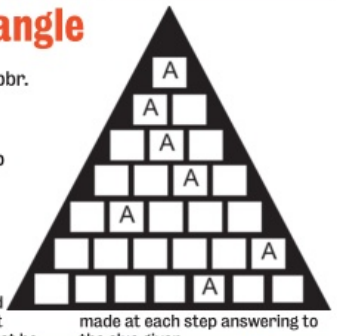
Riddler

In each sentence a word is concealed, such as the word no in sentence five. If you can find the buried words and read them in order from 1 to 6, they will form a well-known proverb.

1. The word buried here has only one letter.
2. Did you find a jelly roll in Gaskin's Bakery?
3. It's the best one I've ever seen.
4. The rug at her stairway was made in India.
5. He's an old friend.
6. Amos sold his bicycle to a friend.

Alpha triangle

1 Blood group
2 Advertisement, abbr.
3 Faulty
4 Glass ornament
5 Emblem
6 Spanish wine shop
7 Slavery

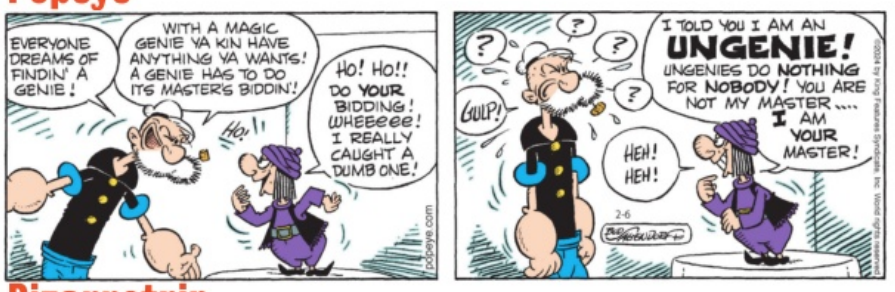


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


EVERYONE DREAMS OF FINDIN' A GENIE!
WITH A MAGIC GENIE YA KIN HAVE ANYTHING YA WANTS! A GENIE HAS TO DO ITS MASTER'S BIDDIN'!
HO! HO!! DO YOUR BIDDING! WHEEEEE! I REALLY CAUGHT A DUMB ONE!
HO!!
I TOLD YOU I AM AN UNGENIE! UNGENIES DO NOTHING FOR NOBODY! YOU ARE NOT MY MASTER.... I AM YOUR MASTER!
GULP!
HEH! HEH!
2-6
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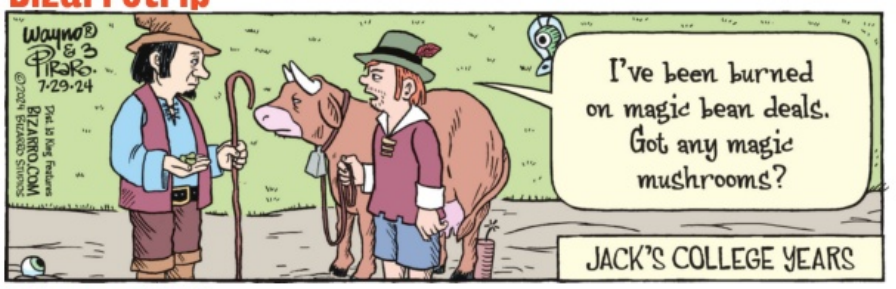
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip


Wayno & Piraro 7-29-24
I've been burned on magic bean deals. Got any magic mushrooms?
JACK'S COLLEGE YEARS
BIZARRO.COM
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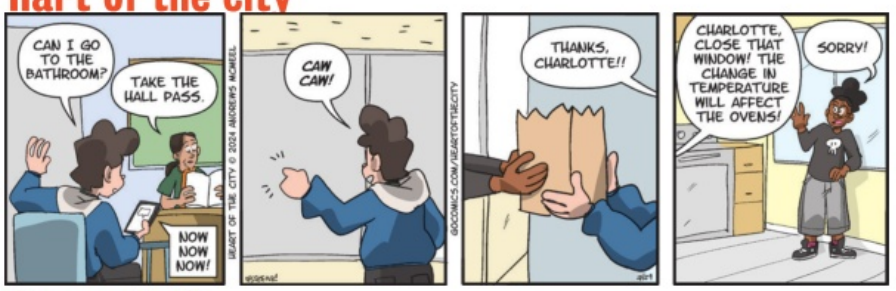
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


CAN I GO TO THE BATHROOM?
TAKE THE HALL PASS.
NOW NOW NOW!
CAW CAW!
THANKS, CHARLOTTE!!
CHARLOTTE, CLOSE THAT WINDOW! THE CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE WILL AFFECT THE OVENS!
SORRY!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IN OTHER NEWS... A BLANKET OF BLACK SMOKE IS SPREADING OVER MUCH OF THE MIDWEST THIS MORNING, MAKING IT SEEM LIKE TWILIGHT DURING THE DAY!
AUTHORITIES ARE WORKING TO TRY TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE.
SMOKE
7-29
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
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Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your energy might be lower, and an old health issue could resurface, making you feel uneasy. It's best to avoid risky activities like adventure trips or driving fast. Legal matters should be handled out of court if possible. You might also consider planning an overseas trip.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today brings profits from past investments, with losses turning into gains. Implementing new ideas could lead to business progress, and success will come with ease. An influential person may guide you toward success. Couples may receive good news about children, and job seekers could find suitable positions. Love birds might take steps toward marriage.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, support from your family and spouse will enhance domestic harmony. However, work overload might limit the time you spend with loved ones, although you'll still manage to attend family gatherings. Expect a strong professional standing, and projects involving government agencies may kick-off.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, spiritual power will uplift your mood, leading to positive thinking. You may feel drawn to spiritualism and consider visiting a religious site. An interest in occult sciences might develop, but it's best to keep your thoughts private and share only with those who understand your mindset.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, nervousness and impatience might affect your mood. You may seek peace through the occult, but trust your intuition before proceeding. A deep focus on a subject could lead to gaining profound knowledge or advancing in research.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, a favorable lunar position brings positive energy to your personal and professional life. Investments are likely to yield gains, and friends and relatives will reciprocate your support. Hard work will bring success.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, things improve, particularly concerning children's health. You might plan to invest for their future. Loyalty to your job will strengthen, and job seekers might find opportunities through references. Hidden enemies may be revealed, but with blessings, you'll handle them effectively

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, good news related to your job is on the horizon. Job seekers focusing on competitive exams or career courses may succeed with dedication. Singles might get engaged, and news of childbirth could bring joy.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, a change in location may be on your mind, but it's best to delay any decisions about moving. Avoid business investments for now, but by the evening, things will improve with wise advice from elders to help settle any confusion.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, expect a short business trip, along with rewards for your achievements. Respect from those around you will grow, and you might receive positive news from siblings. Job seekers, especially those aiming for management roles, may find success. Singles could also get engaged.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, blessings from elders will bring new income opportunities, boosting your financial standing. You might plan to renovate your home, and a significant order could expand your family business. Exercise caution when signing contracts, but delayed projects will see progress.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today brings vitality and good health, allowing you to enjoy your work. However, avoid being too blunt and steer clear of arguments over trivial matters to prevent family disputes. Controlling your words will foster healthy business partnerships and domestic harmony. Job seekers might find suitable opportunities, and lovebirds should avoid discussing unimportant issues.

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Akhilesh S, Bengaluru

Anushika KV, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt[3]{(1-(2\times1))}$
$= \sqrt[3]{(1-2)}$
$= \sqrt[3]{(-1)}$
$= -1$

RIDDLER
A rolling stone gathers no moss.

FAST FIVE

P	R	A	N	A
R	E	N	A	L
O	P	T	E	D
N	E	R	V	E
G	L	A	I	R

BULL'S EYE
ENSLAVE, oven, lane, lean, leaven, navel, sane, seen, seven, vane

STRIKE OUT

S	E	A	N	C	E	A	B	I	D	E	D
L	P	I	M	A	G	E	E	A		
E	M	P	I	R	E	I	D	E	A	L	S
E	A	C	E	A	S	E	C	H		
P	A	L	E	R	E	T	G	O	N	E	
Y	E	L	L	S	O	L	A	N	E	D	
G	A	I	M	L	E	S	S	A			
V	I	A	N	D	I	D	E	A	R	S	
U	S	E	D	L	A	O	S	O	S	O	
L	G	R	I	N	G	O	R	E	D		
C	A	E	C	U	M	E	L	A	T	E	D
A	A	N	E	W	E	L	A	E			
N	I	N	E	T	Y	S	A	M	S	O	N

QUICK

L										
D	E	T	E	S	T		T	I	D	I	L	E	Y
R		H		S		N		U		P	
N	U	N	C	H	A	K	U		R	I	P	E
A		A		T		A		I			
C	L	U	E	S		G	L	I	D	E	R	S
R		A		F		E					
T	O	R	P	E	D	O		S	T	E	P	S
G				A		S		C		U	
T	I	E	S		N	O	B	L	E	S	E	
D		G		N		M		J		E	
E	N	I	G	M	A		O	D	E	S	S	A
L		E		K		C		R		U	

MENSA PUZZLE
Figure 5 is the odd one out. It's lines forma backward 'S', but all others form a regular 'S'.

QUOTE UNCODE
Knowledge and timber shouldn't be much used till they are seasoned.

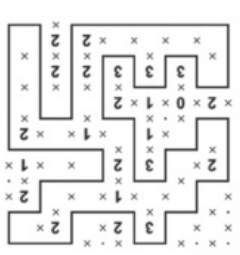
SUDOKU

8	4	2	7	5	6	3	1	9
3	6	1	2	8	9	7	5	4
7	9	5	1	4	3	8	6	2
6	8	3	4	9	1	5	2	7
5	7	4	8	3	2	6	9	1
1	2	9	6	7	5	4	8	3
9	3	8	5	1	7	2	4	6
2	5	7	9	6	4	1	3	8
4	1	6	3	2	8	9	7	5

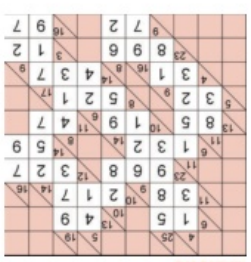
ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, AD, Bad, Bead, Badge, Bodega, Bondage.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 7 + 6 − 7 = 15
Medium
3 + 7 − 8 × 8 = 16
Hard
8 × 2 + 5 + 1 = 22

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 17, Issue No 043 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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